The Historic City of George Town

More than two centuries of unique history and heritage makes George Town a worthy recipient as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site on 7th July 2008. From its humble beginnings as the first British Straits Settlement in the late 18th century, George Town went through tremendous transformations over the last two centuries, from a swampy frontier, to a bustling trading post, to the present city of living history, filled with nuances in every corners, worthy to be discovered by intrepid adventurers.

The Historic City of George Town encompasses a rich collection of historic buildings in various styles. They include the indo-Malay Palladian Style, Anglo-Indian Bungalow, Early Shophouses, Early Transitional Style, Early Electicism Shophouse, Sino-Anglo Bungalows, Neo Classical Style, art Deco Style, Early Modern Style, Late Modern Style, as well as numerous religious buildings such as Mosques, Churches, Chinese and Indian Temples. These architectures scatter along the many streets of George Town, bearing witness to the evolution of this rustic port city.

Venturing deeper, and one will find that these architectures represent the various ethnicity that had settled in the city for the past two hundred years: Chinese, Indians, Arabs, the local Malays, Achehnese from the Indonesian archipelago, Siamese, Burmese and Europeans, each living out its distinctive culture while co-existing harmoniously with one another. It is a testament to the vitality of peace and multi-culturalism, a shining example for the world to discover.



www.visitpenang.gov.my

Penang *has it all!* MALAYSIA

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The Heritage Centre, Penang

Lembaga Muzium Negeri Pulau Pinang
State Museum Board, Penang

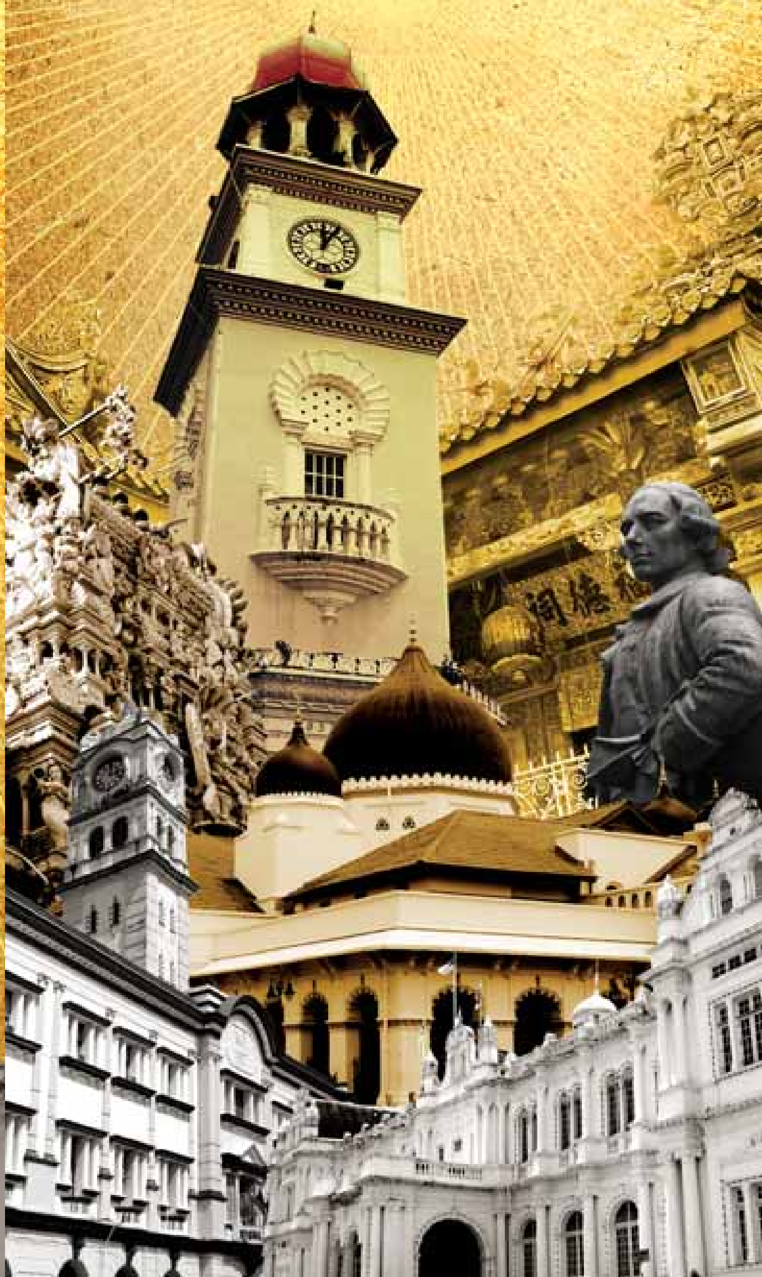
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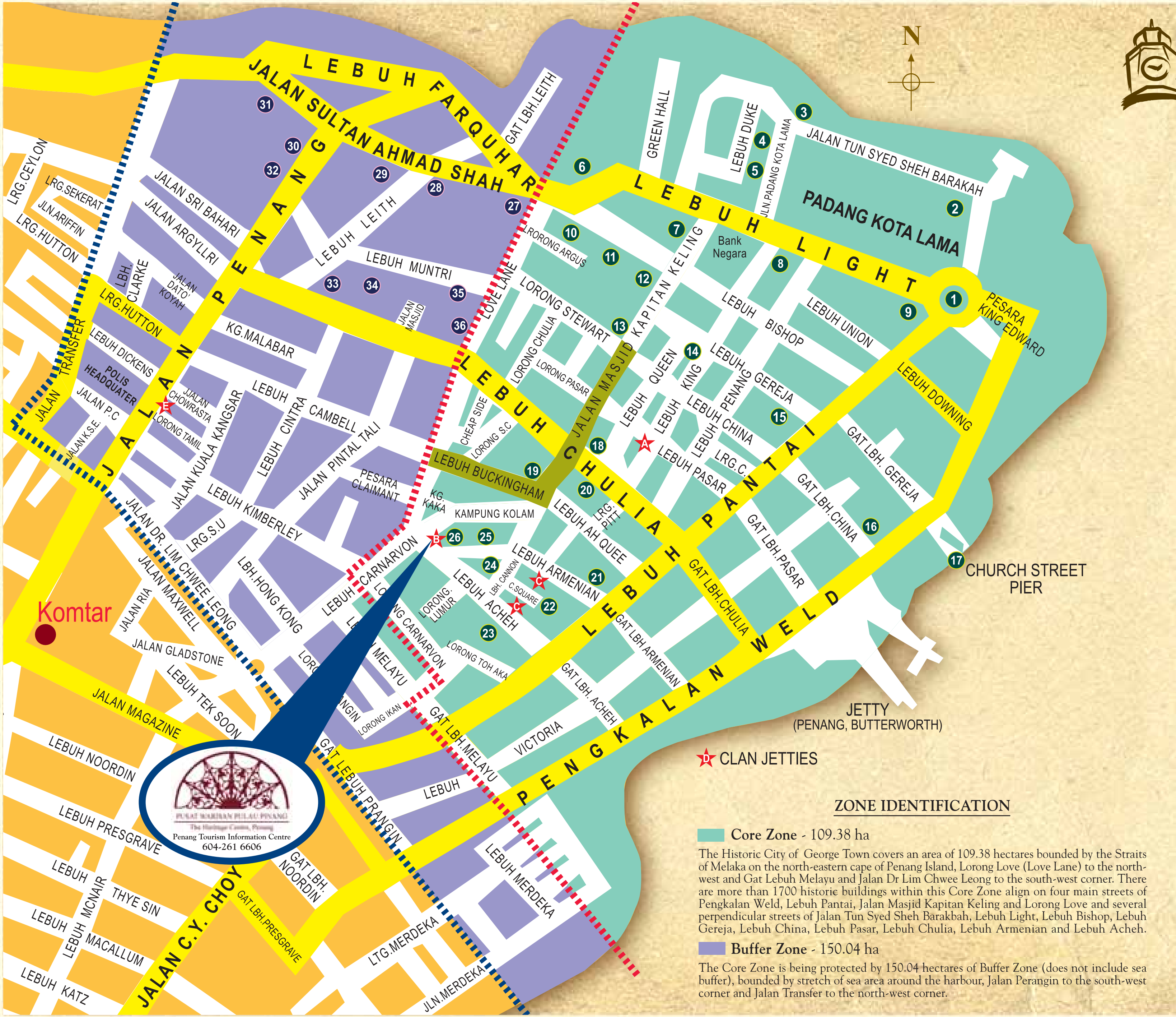


M A L A Y S I A

George Town • Penang

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITY





George Town • Penang

UNESCO WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE CITY

1. Clock Tower
2. Fort Cornwallis
3. War Memorial
4. City Hall
5. Town Hall
6. Convent Light Street School
7. Court Buildings
8. House of Yeap Chor Ee
9. State Assembly Buildings
10. Cathedral of the Assumption
11. Penang State Museum
12. St George's Church
13. Goddess of Mercy Temple
14. King Street Temples
15. The Pinang Peranakan Mansion
16. Malayan Railway Building
17. Church Street Pier
18. Mahamariamman Temple
19. Kapitan Keling Mosque
20. Teochew Temple
21. Cheah Kongsi
22. Khoo Kongsi
23. Masjid Melayu Lebuh Acheh
24. Yap Kongsi Temple
25. Dr. Sun Yat Sen's Penang Base
26. Islamic Museum (Syed Alatas Mansion)
27. Saint Xavier's Institution
28. Leong Fee's Mansion
29. Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion
30. Residence Of Ku Din Ku Meh
31. Christian Cemetery
32. Saint Francis Xavier Church
33. Benggali Mosque
34. Hainan Temple
35. Goldsmiths Guild
36. Carpenters Guild

- A Little India
- B Pusat Warisan Pulau Pinang (Penang Tourism Information Centre)
- C Art Gallery Lebuh Acheh & Lebuh Armenian
- D Clan Jetties
- E Chowrasta Market
- Gold Bazaar

ZONE IDENTIFICATION

Core Zone - 109.38 ha

The Historic City of George Town covers an area of 109.38 hectares bounded by the Straits of Melaka on the north-eastern cape of Penang Island, Lorong Love (Love Lane) to the north-west and Gat Lebuh Melayu and Jalan Dr Lim Chwee Leong to the south-west corner. There are more than 1700 historic buildings within this Core Zone align on four main streets of Pengkalan Weld, Lebuh Pantai, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lorong Love and several perpendicular streets of Jalan Tun Syed Sheh Barakbah, Lebuh Light, Lebuh Bishop, Lebuh Gereja, Lebuh China, Lebuh Pasar, Lebuh Chulia, Lebuh Armenian and Lebuh Acheh.

Buffer Zone - 150.04 ha

The Core Zone is being protected by 150.04 hectares of Buffer Zone (does not include sea buffer), bounded by stretch of sea area around the harbour, Jalan Perangin to the south-west corner and Jalan Transfer to the north-west corner.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE:
Culture of the people – rituals, social practices, cuisine, costumes, crafts...



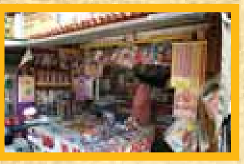
RATTAN WEAVER
- Lebuh Chulia

One of the few surviving rattan (cane) craftsmen at the job: binding, weaving and repairing cane furnitures favoured by many in the state.



SONGKOK MAKER
- 157, Lebuh King (10am-5pm)

Set in an alcove next to the Nagore Shrine, the experienced master weaves the Malay Songkok for discerning customers with an eye for intricacy.



OTTU KEDAI
- Lebuh Market (8am-7pm)

Resembling nothing more than a hut against the wall, this little store, like others in the vicinity of George Town, is a mini sundry shop supplying the daily needs of the local neighbourhood.



JOSS STICK MAKER
- 1, Lorong Muda (8am-10am)

Fragrant and laboriously produced, these hand-made joss sticks have a rare personal touch over the typically mass-produced for the Buddhist and Taoist devotees as a sweet-smelling sacrifice to their gods.



TOMBSTONE ENGRAVER
- 11, Lebuh Acheh (10am-12pm)

These stones, hewn by hands, are all the more precious, fit for the honour and tribute to the deceased.

ART GALLERIES
Get a sense of the local art scene, whether the impressionistic, abstract, the avant-garde, or even the conventional, by visiting the various art galleries along Lebuh Armenian and Lebuh Acheh within the heritage enclave.



SIGNBOARD ENGRAVER
- 41, Lebuh Queen (11am-5pm)

Masterfully chiselled, these Chinese name plagues bore the signature of gifted hands that is keeping this traditional art well into the 21st century.



COFFEE MAKER
Literally home-brewed, the aromatic and rich-bodied local coffee is prepared over wood fire in a home factory setting. The final product can be found in most sundry shops in George Town, while the brew can be savoured at most local coffee shops within the historic city.



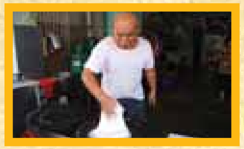
WOODEN & BAMBOO BLIND MAKER *231 Lebuh Chulia*
At the narrow alley behind this shop comes the colourful wooden/bamboo blinds, hand-painted by Mr. Chen of Ngai Sun that adorn the many outlets in George Town. These multi-coloured blinds not only serve as shelters from the scorching sun, but as advertising modules as well.



CHOWRASTA MARKET
- Jalan Penang (opposite Police Headquarter)

Chowrasta Market has served the people of George Town for more than a century, providing its denizens with groceries of various kinds since 1890 by South Indian Muslims. Meaning 'four cross roads' in the Urdu tongue, the present Chowrasta, with traders selling dried pickles, nutmegs and other exotic Penang specialties, was built in 1981, with the front facing Penang Road, built in 1920, serving as its facade.

CLAN JETTIES *- Pengkalan Weld*
Clan Jetties are unique Chinese settlements along Weld Quay, with homes built along wooden piers that extend to the Penang Channel. It has been in existence since the 19th century.The residents of each clan jetty are descendants of Chinese immigrants that reflect the distinct historical, geographical and lineage of its populace. There are originally eight clan jetties along Weld Quay (Chew Jetty, Koay Jetty, Lee Jetty, Lim Jetty, Peng Aun Jetty, Tan Jetty, Yeoh Jetty, Mixed Clans Jetty).



"POH PIAH" SKIN
Wrapping Of Spring Roll
5, Jalan Chowrasta (8am-11am)

Making elastic and paper-thin pastry wrappings for spring rolls is an art in itself, mastered by but a few, like the one here who has kept the trade for three generations.



"TAU SA PIAH"
The taste buds of Penangnites have a penchant not only for anything savoury, but in traditional confectionaries and pastries that truly melts the heart. Also called Tambun Biscuit, a flaky biscuit with mung bean fillings, it is available at most biscuit outlets in Chowrasta Market and within George Town.



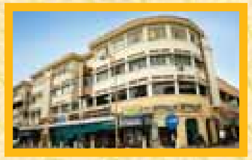
"ROTI BENGGALI"
Traditional Bread
- 114, Jalan Transfer (8am-6pm)

From the ovens of 'Ismalia Bakery' founded by Sheik Mohd Ismail from Madras in 1932, comes the fragrant and crusty bread that serves well with butter, kaya and half-boiled egg.



"YU CHAR KUIH"
- 76, Lebuh Cintra; 2C, People's Court; 17, Jalan Hutton

"Yu Char Kuih"/Deep-"Yu Whether made by Malay or Chinese, such as by Encik Ibrahim at Jalan Hutton for the past 40 years, these crispy dough fritters have become the staple item at the breakfast table for generations, typically consumed together with porridge, kaya (a coconut-based spread), even with coffee.



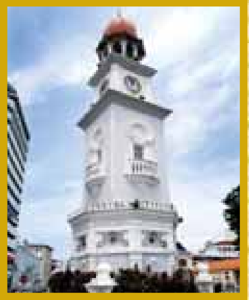
GOLD BAZAAR
- Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

Gold Bazaar Encompasses the area within Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, Lebuh Buckingham and Lebuh Campbell. The Bazaar harkens back to the century-old gold and jewellery trade in Penang, which was and still is the industrial leader in Malaysia.

LITTLE INDIA *- Lebuh Pasar*
Little India, covering Lebuh Pasar, Lebuh Queen, Lebuh King and Lebuh Penang, is a microcosm, reflecting the diversity of the Indian way of life in its food, music, religious merchandises, fashion, trinkets and the likes.



Selamat Datang (Welcome) to the Historic City, where history is alive, legacy preserved, and cultures magnified. Take time to take in the sights, the structures, as well as the sound that buzzes through the colourful streets of George Town.



1 CLOCK TOWER
Lebuh Light

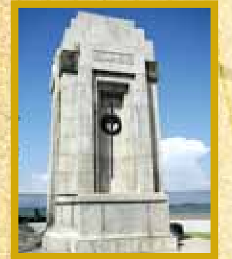
Queen Victoria Memorial Clock Tower is located near Fort Cornwallis at King Edward's Place. The 60-feet clocktower was Penang millionaire Cheah Chen Eok's symbol of wealth and opulence, built in 1897 to commemorate the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign.



2 FORT CORNWALLIS
Lebuh Light

Fort Cornwallis was built by Francis Light immediately after his landing on the island, with the present star-shaped structure completed in early 19th century. It served as the administrative centre of the island, housing the Supreme Court of Penang and later the Sikh Police force before its present role as a tourist attraction.

Visiting Hours - 9am - 6pm daily (Sunday closed) **Tel**: 604-261 0262 / 261 0263
Admission - Adult: RM3.00 • Children (below 12): RM2.00



3 WAR MEMORIAL
Jalan Padang Kota Lama

Penang War Memorial was dedicated to the brave soldiers who sacrificed themselves over a surprised German naval attack on Allied vessels off the harbour of Penang during the first World War.



4 CITY HALL
Jalan Padang Kota Lama

City Hall is a magnificent neo-Palladian architecture completed in 1903, as the seat of the Penang government. Currently, it houses the Municipal Council of Penang Island.



5 TOWN HALL
Lebuh Light

Town Hall was once the centre of the Penang socialite. Declared opened in 1880 by Gov. Sir Fedderick Weld, the Victorian architecture was used for various purposes, including theatrical performances, church services and the birth of the Penang State Library.



6 CONVENT LIGHT STREET SCHOOL
Lebuh Light

Convent Light Street School is the oldest girls school in Malaysia, of which the present location, once the Penang Governor's residence, was acquired in 1859 to house the school, which functioned as an orphanage at one time.



7 COURT BUILDING
Lebuh Farquhar

Penang Supreme Court Building is another magnificent neo-Palladian architecture built in 1809 on a land plot that intersects Lebuh Light, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling and Lebuh Farquhar. It currently houses the Penang High Court.



8 HOUSE OF YEAP CHOR EE
4, Lebuh King

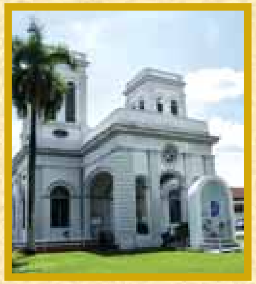
This humble but magnificent abode at Lebuh King once belonged to Penang tycoon Yap Chor Ee, the founder of Ban Hin Lee bank. It was recently turned into a themed restaurant.

Tel: 604-264 5088
Visiting Hours: 11.30am - 3.00pm and 6.00pm - 10.30pm (Close on Sunday)



9 STATE ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS
Lebuh Light

Penang State Assembly Building, formerly the Police Court, was built in early 19th century after the neo-classical Anglo-Indian style. It currently serves as the chamber of the Penang State Assembly.



10 CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION
3, Lebuh Farquhar

Cathedral of the Assumption's history is almost as old as Penang itself, setup not long after the landing of Francis Light. The faithful believers have kept the current parish since the mid-19th century.

Tel: 604-261 0088
Visiting Hours: Mon-Sat: 11.00am - 7.00pm



11 PENANG STATE MUSEUM
Lebuh Farquhar

Penang State Museum, built in 1816, holds a distinguished history of being the home of the Penang Free School and the Hutchings School.

Tel: 604-261 3144
Visiting Hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm daily except Friday
Admission - Adult: RM1.00 • Children (below 12): RM0.50



12 ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
Lebuh Farquhar

St. George's Anglican Church is another congregation that is as old as Penang. Completed in 1818 after the neo-Palladian Georgian style, the church has come to be a symbol of religious harmony in Penang, coexisting with other religious edifices along the intersecting Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling.



13 GODDESS OF MERCY TEMPLE

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

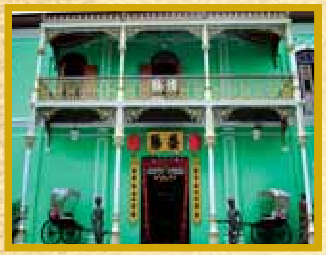
Goddess of Mercy Temple is one of the oldest Chinese temple in Penang, with the present structure's foundation laid in 1728.



14 KING STREET TEMPLES

30-40, Lebuh King

King Street Temples, like the historical enclave of Lebuh Armenian, represent the diversity of the Chinese communities that settled in Penang during the 18th century. Along King Street, one will discover the subtlety of the Cantonese and the Hakka, reflected in the temples' architecture and its interior artefacts.



15 THE PINANG PERANAKAN MANSION

29 Lebuh Gereja

Peranakan Mansion is one of the most ornate private homes in Penang. It once belonged to Kapitan Chung Keng Kwee, a colourful personality in the late 19th century. Currently, it is a museum showcasing antiques of the Peranakan/Baba Nyoyian community. **Tel**: 604-264 2929

Visiting Hours - Mon to Fri: 9.30am - 5.00pm ; Sat: 9.30am - 3.00pm
(Close on Sundays and all public holidays)

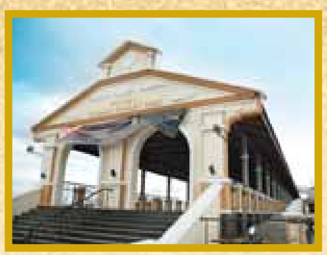
Admission - Adult: RM10.00 • Children (below 12): Free



16 MALAYAN RAILWAY BUILDING

Pengkalan Weld

Malayan Railway Building, a neo-classical architecture built in the early 20th century, was once the tallest building in the island with its clock tower. It is believed to be the only railway station in the world without tracks passing through it.



17 CHURCH STREET PIER

Pengkalan Weld

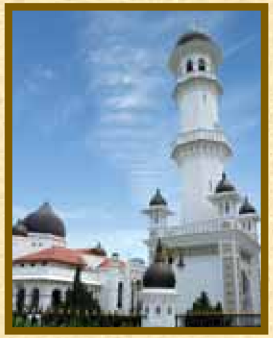
Church Street Pier, built in 1897, was once a busy spot along the channel in the first half of the 20th century. After years of neglect after its decline, the pier was redeveloped and is now incorporated into the Tanjung City Marina.



18 MAHAMARIAMMAN TEMPLE

Lebuh Queen

Sri Mahamariamman Temple, dedicated to the Hindu deity Sri Muthu Mariamman, is one of the oldest temple in Penang, with its history all the way to 1801, where the present site began as a humble Hindu shrine. The gateway, or *gopuram*, is magnificently sculptured with 38 Hindu deities.



19 KAPITAN KELING MOSQUE

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling

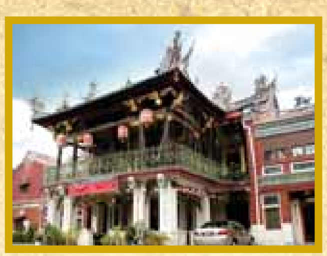
Masjid Kapitan Keling was built at the start of the 19th century. It came to represent the Indian Muslim community of George Town. Its present structure was renovated twice, with the façade of the building and its interior decorated in Islamic geometric design.



20 TEOCHEW TEMPLE

127, Chulia Street

Teochew Temple, or the Han Jiang Teochew Ancestral Temple, completed in 1870, was the recipient of the 2006 Award of Merit Unesco Asia-Pacific for Culture Heritage Conservation. In the past, it primarily served the early Teochew immigrants from China who came here looking for new leases of life.



21 CHEAH KONGSI

8, Lebuh Armenian

Cheah Kongsi, with its clan history tracing to the turn of the 19th century, is one of the oldest Hokkien clan in Penang, with the present opulent clan temple completed during the 1870s.

Tel: 604-261 3837 **Visiting Hours**: Mon to Sat: 8.00am - 6.00pm



22 KHOO KONGSI

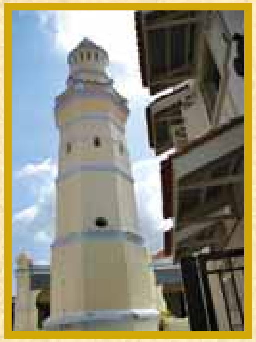
18, Cannon Square

Khoo Kongsi represents the opulence and prosperity of the Khoo clan. Built between 1894 and 1906, it is one of the most ornate clan temple outside mainland China.

Tel: 604-264 2119

Visiting Hours: 9am - 5pm Daily

Admission - Adult: RM5.00 • Children (below 12): RM1.00



23 MASJID MELAYU LEBUH ACHEH

Lebuh Acheh

Masjid Melayu Lebuh Acheh was founded in 1808 by a wealthy Achehnese Tengku Syed Hussain bin Abdul Rahman Aideed. The mosque was a centre of Haj travel during the 19th century, serving Muslims from the Northern Sumatera, Southern Thailand and the Northern Peninsula Malaya.



24 YAP KONGSI TEMPLE

Lebuh Armenian

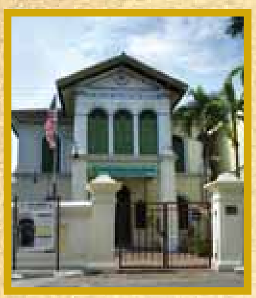
Yap Kongsi stands together with other prominent clan temples in the heart of Lebuh Armenian. Completed in the Straits Eclectic style in 1924, the clan temple, of which its land was donated by Penang tycoon Yeap Chor Ee, houses the ancient tablets of the Yap clan.



25 DR. SUN YAT SEN'S PENANG BASE

120, Lebuh Armenian

120, Armenian Street was once the base of operation for Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the liberator of China from centuries of feudalism. An extensive collection of Dr. Sun's personal effects are displayed in the gallery.



26 ISLAMIC MUSEUM (SYED ALATAS MANSION)

128, Lebuh Armenian

Syed Al-Attas Mansion once belonged to Syed Mohammad Al-Attas, a Muslim of Achehnese descent who supported Acheh's struggle against the Dutch in the 19th century. Built in 1860 after the Straits Eclectic style, the mansion now houses the Penang Islamic Museum.
Tel: 604-262 0172
Visiting Hours: 9.00am - 5.30pm Daily (closed on Tuesday)
Admission - Adult: RM3.00 • Children (below 12): RM1.00



27 SAINT XAVIER'S INSTITUTE

Lebuh Farquhar

Saint Xavier's Institution is the oldest Roman Catholic boy school in Malaysia, founded by the De La Salle Christian Brothers in 1850. The present site of Saint Xavier was occupied since 1857, which was once used as a Japanese naval base during World War II, before it was destroyed by Allied forces. The school reopened in the present building in 1954.



28 LEONG FEE'S MANSION

7, Lebuh Leith

Leong Fee's Mansion, built at the turn of the 20th century, was the abode of the Chinese Ching dynasty's Fourth Vice-Consul in Penang. It once housed the St. Xavier's Institution before serving as an art school presently.



29 CHEONG FATT TZE MANSION

14, Lebuh Leith

Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, which won the 2000 Most Excellent Award of Unesco Asia-Pacific for Culture Heritage Conservation, is a grand and intricate estate built by one of the wealthiest tycoon at the turn of the 20th century. The mansion, which covers the terrace houses at the opposite side, is a fusion of Oriental and Western architecture. **Tel**: 604-262 0006
Visiting Hours: Conducted Tours at 11am and 3pm everyday. Other times of the day is closed to the public. **Admission** - Adult: RM12.00 • Children (below 12): Free



30 RESIDENCE OF KU DIN KU MEH

20, Jalan Penang

Residence of Ku Din Ku Meh belonged to Ku Din (1848-1932), a Kedah Malay who was the Administrator of Setul, with his writings and administrative records preserved in the Thai National in Bangkok. It offers quality accomodation, personalised service and comfort for budget travellers in the city of Penang. **Tel**: 604-262 8748



31 CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah

The Christian Cemetery, under the overarching shades of fragipani trees, is the final resting place of many pioneers of the island, such as Francis Light, James Scott, the founder of the Penang Free School Reverend Hutchings, Reverend Thomas Beighton of the London Missionary Society and etc.



32 SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

Jalan Penang

Saint Francis Xavier Church was founded by Bishop Boucho in 1857 to cater to the needs of the local Tamil-speaking congregation. The original church complex was built in 1867, on land donated by the Godfrey family, with the present church building completed in 1952, on the financial assistance of the Grummit Family from England.



33 BENGGALI MOSQUE

Leith Street

Benggali Mosque was founded in 1803 catering to the needs of Indian-Muslims from Bengal, who travelled to Penang in search of new life and opportunities.



34 HAINAN TEMPLE

Muntri Street

Hainan Temple, or the 'Temple of the Heavenly Queen', was founded in 1866, with the present building dating to 1895 and was restored in 1995. It served the Hainanese immigrants in the 19th century, who worked as cooks, coffee roasters and sailors in George Town. **Visiting Hours**: 8am - 8pm Daily



35 GOLDSMITHS GUILD

41, Lebuh Muntri

Goldsmiths Guild, founded in 1832, is the oldest and largest goldsmiths guild in Malaysia, with the present temple built in 1903 after the typical Cantonese architecture adapted to colonial urban setting.



36 CARPENTERS GUILD

70, Love Lane

Carpenters Guild acted as a centre for immigrant Cantonese carpenters in the early days of George Town before they proceeded to their work place in other parts of Malaya. Many of them settled down and contributed their skills to many of the heritage buildings in Penang.
Visiting Hours - Mon to Sat: 9.30am- 5.30pm **Tel**: 604-261 6663